

Message Text

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43

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PC-15 USIA-15 IO-14 DODE-00 INT-08

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R 281036Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2228

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, PINT, NI

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL DROUGHT RELIEF MEASURES

REF: LAGOS 100KR#

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN WAKE GOWON TRIP TO NORTH REPORTED REFTEL AND

KADUNA 666, FMG HAS DECIDED MAKE AVAILABLE ADDITIONAL

501

MILLION FOR DROUGHT RELIEF MEASURES. END SUMMARY

1. TEN DAYS AFTER GENERAL GOWON RETURNED TO LAGOS FROM TOUR OF DROUGHT STRICKEN AREAS IN NORTH, FMG ANNOUNCED DECEMBER 22 THAT IT WILL MAKE AVAILABLE ADDITIONAL N30 MILLION (ABOUT \$45 MILLION) TO FOUR AFFECTED STATES FOR USE IN DROUGHT RELIEF. HALF OF THIS TOTAL AMOUNT WILL BE RELEASED DURING CURRENT FISCAL YEAR WHICH ENDS MARCH 31, BALANCE TO FOLLOW IN NEXT FY.

2. TWO-THIRDS OF TOTAL RELIEKWWILL BE USED TO PURCHASE FOOD FOR DISTRIBUTION TO PERSONS IN AFFECTED AREAS. ALL SUCH PURCHASES FROM ABROAD WITH THESE FUNDS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BY FMG ITSELF THROUGH NATIONAL SUPPLY COMPANY, THOUGH STATES WILL RETAIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR BUYING LOCALLY AVAILABLE FOODSTUFFS. FMG ROLE IN DROUGHT RELIEF FURTHER STRENGTHENED BY ADDITION REPRESENTATIVES OF ARMED FORCES, POLICE, AND FEDERAL MIN AGRICULTURE TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EACH STATE DROUGHT RELIEF COMMITTEE.

3. REMAINING ONE-THIRD OF TOTAL FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE DIVIDED INTO TWO SEGMENTS OF N5 MILLION EACH. FIRST WILL BE USED FOR PURCHASE OF LIVESTOCK FEEDS TO KEEP MEAT INDUSTRY GOING, WHILE SECOND N5*MILLION WILL BE SPENT BY FMG MINISTRY MINES AND POWER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF WATER SUPPLIES.

4. WITH EZKE#NO LONGER TERM FOOD SUPPLY PROBLEM, FMG INCLUDED FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ALL STATES WILL RECEIVE N10 MILLION (ABOUT \$15 MILLION) INTEREST-FREE LOANS TO HELP DEVELOP LARGE SCALE GOVERNMENT FARMS DURING FORTHCOMING HARVEST SEASON.

5. PRESS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY HAS WARMLY WELCOMED FMG ACTION, WHICH IT SEES AS FULFILLMENT GOWON PLEDGE REPORTED REFTELS ONLY CRITICAL NOTE CAME FROM NEW NIGERIAN, OWNED BY SIX NORTHERN STATESMEN WHICH C*MPLAINED OF EXPANSION FMG RTME#INSTITUTED BY NEW DECISIONS AND WISHED SEE STATES MAINTAIN GREATER CONTROL OVER DROUGHT RELIEF ACTIVITIES.

6. *OMMENT: AS SEPARATELY REPORTED BY AGRICULTURE ATTACHE, AVAILABILITY SUBSTANTIAL FMG FUNDS FOR PURCHASE OF FOOD ABROAD MAY OPEN NEW SALES OPPORTUNITIES FOR US EXPORTERS. AS WE HAVE NOTED IN PAST, THESE ARE EXPECTED TO BE ON STRAIGHT COMMERCIAL BASIS AND IT REMAINS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT FMG WOULD SEEK OR BE RECEPTIVE TO GOVERNMENTAL ASSISTANCE IN COPING WITH SHORT TERM DROUGHT PROBLEMS.
CROSBY

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED. WILL BE SERVICED ON REQUEST.

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